

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
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FOR RELEASE  
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HEARING SCHEDULED AND SPECIAL MASTERS APPOINTED IN  
MATTER CONCERNING JUDGE JAMES M. PETRUCELLI

On October 14, 2014, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge James M. Petrucelli, a judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno. The hearing has been scheduled to begin on Monday, February 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the California Court of Appeal for the Fifth District, 2424 Ventura Street in Fresno, California. The hearing will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court: Hon. Stuart R. Pollak, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three; Hon. Bradley L. Boeckman, Superior Court of California, County of Shasta; and Hon. Ronni B. MacLaren, Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Attorney Gary Schons of San Diego has been designated as examiner for the commission. Judge Petrucelli is represented by Attorney Kathleen Ewins of Long & Levit LLP in San Francisco.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the commission with a report containing their findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the commission. If the commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to impose discipline as provided in the California Constitution. Charges that the commission determines are not proved will be dismissed.

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The commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The chairperson is Honorable Erica R. Yew of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. Commission member Anthony P. Capozzi, Esq. is recused in this matter.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov>.